

A
D E C R E E
O F

Starre-Chamber.

Concerning Inmates, and diuided Tenements, in London or three miles about:

Made the fourteenth of February
last past. 1636.



Imprinted at London, by *Robert Barker*, Printer
to the Kings most Excellent Maiesty:
And by the Assignes of
John Bill. 1636.

DEFORE



In Camera Stellata coram Con-
cilio ibidem, decimo quarto die Fe-
bruarij, Anno duodecimo
CAROLI Regis.

THis day was produced
in Court a Decree
drawne and penned,
by the aduice of the
Right Honourable the Lord Kee-
per, the Lord Priuy Seale, the two
Lords chiefe Iustices, the Lord
Chiefe Baron, and the rest of the
Judges of His MAIESTIES
Courts of Kings Bench, Com-
mon Pleas, and Court of Ex-
chequer, touching Inmates, and
diuided Tenements, and the same
being read in Court, and well liked
A 3 of

of by all the Honourable presence
there sitting, the said Decree was
directed and ordered to be here re-
corded: and to the end the same
may be publike, and that every one
whom it may concerne may take no-
tice thereof; The Court hath now
also ordered, that the said Decree
shall be speedily Printed, and
that the same be sent to His
MAJESTIES Prin-
ter for that pur-
pose.



In Camera Stellata coram Con-
cilio ibidem, decimo quarto die
Februarij, Anno duodecimo
CAROLI Regis.



Hereas by a Decree
made in this Ho-
nourable Court, the
twentieth day of O-
ctober, in the four-
tieth yeare of the Reigne of Our
late Soueraigne Lady Queene
ELIZABETH, vpon the infor-
mation of Her Maiesties then
Attourney generall, against *Rice*
Griffith,

by a
Decree made

40. Eliz.

Griffith, and John Srips, (who
 contrarie to the Proclamation
 published and set out the se-
 uenth day of Iuly, in the two
 and twentieth yeare of Her Ma-
 iesties Reigne, had erected and
 built Tenemen's, and diuided
 them into feuerall Roomes,
 wherein diuers poore Tenants
 dwelt, that liued and were main-
 tained by the reliefe of the Pa-
 rish, and begged abroad in other
 places) the said offenders were
 sentenced. And as for the put-
 ting down or reforming of any
 Houle new built or diuided
 contrary to the said Proclamati-
 on, within the Citie of London,
 or

22. Eliz.

for pulling
 down

Starre-Chamber.

or the compasse of three miles
thereof, (in which any poore or
impotent persons then did, or
thereafter should dwell or abide)
for that if the same houses should
bee pulled downe, destroyed
or reformed, other habitations
must be provided for them at the
charge of the Parishes where
they were or should be dwelling;
The Court did thinke fit to for-
beare and respite the doing there-
of, but did order and adiudge,
that all and euery such poore and
impotent persons, which did or
should dwell and inhabite in any
new buildings or diuided tene-
ments, erected and diuided con-

B

trary

to forbear & respite

*in any new building
diuided tenement.*

A Decree of

trary to the effect and intent of
her Highnes said Proclamation,
and were or should in any wise
be driuen to liue by begging, or
to bee relieved by almes within
the Citie of London, or any o-
ther place within the compasse of
three miles thereof, should, and
might, during the time of his or
their life or liues, abide and dwell
in the same, without giuing or
paying any manner of rent, ser-
uice, or other recompence vnto
the Landlords or any other, for,
or in respect of the same, and not
bee thence remooued, vnlesse
they should after become able to
liue of themselves; and that the
said

3 miles

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saide Landlord, Owner, or any *sa Landlord*
other that claimed interest, to, or
for any rent or rents, growing,
arising, or payable for any of the *for any of y^e sa*
saide new buildings, or diuided *new buildings or di*
tenem^{ts} so inhabited
Tenements so inhabited, or to
be inhabited with poore people
as aforesaid, should be enioyned,
and vpon that sentence and De-
cree take sufficient notice and
warning, that he or they should
not implead, incumber, disquiet,
or molest any of the saide poore
Tenants, for any Rents, Coue-
nants, Conditions, Promises, or
Agreements, touching, or in any
wise concerning the saide Tene-
ments, new buildings, or any of
to B 2 them,

8

A Decree of

them, for the leuying, or reco-
uering of any rent, seruice or
other consideration in lieu of
any rent.

And for that the new build-
ings and diuisions of sundry hou-
ses within the Citie of London
and three miles compasse there-
of, contrary to the tenour of the
said Proclamation, had beene
and was occasion of great char-
ges vnto the Parishes of the said
Citie and Precinct aforesaid,
whereby the said Parishes were
still ouermuch burdened with
poore and impotent persons; It
was therfore ordered and de-
creed, that all such Landlords

or

of such Landlords

Starre-Chamber.

or Owners of such buildings
or diuisions, wheresoeuer they
should dwell, should contribute
and giue such like ratable and
reasonable allowance with the
said Parishioners, where such
buildings and diuisions were, to-
wards the finding and maintain-
ing of the poore of the Parish, in
which such buildings were, or
should bee erected or diuided,
contrary to the said Proclamati-
on, as should be apportioned
and allotted him or them to pay,
if hee or they were dwelling in
the said Parish.

And it was further ordered
and decreed, that after the death

or diuisions

should contribute

as y^e st parishioners

towards y^e poore

of y^e poore of y^e st parish

as

if hee or they were dwelling in y^e st parish.

A Decree of
or departure of such poore peo-
ple, as did, or should inhabit the
same houses or diuided Tene-
ments aforesaid, the houses there-
by being become void; Then
the Lord Maior, and Iustices of
Peace were vnto the Citie ad-
ioyning, thereby were comman-
ded to reforme the said diuided
Tenements, and to prostrate, pull
downe, and deface the said new
buildings in such sort as the same
should be no more fit for habita-
tion, and the timber and wood
thereof to be conuerted and dis-
posed in such manner, as by the
said Proclamation is required, as
also to take order in all other the

to

pre-

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*pull downe & deface
new buildings*

of timber

Starre-Chamber.

premises, That the said Decree should bee ducly obserued and kept, and if any should be obstinate, then to binde such Landlords as should obstinately and wilfully disobey the said Decree, to appeare in this Honourable Court, to answer their contempt therein.

And whereas the nine and twentieth of Nouember, in the seuenth yeare of the Reigne of King IAMES of blessed memorie, this Honourable Court did decree and order; That the said Decree taken the twentieth day of October in the said fourtieth yeare of the said late Queene, should

7. Jan.

this writte is
decree

A Decree of

should bee presently, and from
time to time thereafter more se-
uerely looked into, and put in ex-
ecution; And his Maiesties lear-
ned Counsell, and also the Lord
Maior and Aldermen of Lon-
don, together with all Iustices of
Peace, and other his Maiesties
Officers whatsoeuer, which the
same may any way concerne,
were straitly charged and requi-
red, that they, and euery of them,
should from time to time there-
after diligently and strictly
cause and see the said Decree
to bee in all points duely obser-
ued and put in execution, and
renewly to make certificate to
this

Starre Chamber.

this honourable Court of their
proceedings therein, and of such
persons as they should finde to
offend in that behalfe, whereup-
on this Court did purpose to
proceed against them for their
contempts with very severe pu-
nishment. Since which time
sundry other Proclamations, as
well in the time of the said late
King JAMES, as of His Maie-
stie that now is, have been pub-
lished and set out against the said
offences, and many exemplarie
sentences in this honourable
Court have been pronounced
against offenders in that be-
halfe, and many houses and

C buildings

many houses &c

A Decree of

buildings erected against the
said Proclamation have beene
demolished and pulled down.
And yet neuerthelesse, such
hath been the disobedience and
contempt of great multitudes,
aiming onely at their own gain,
whatsoever perill or inconveni-
ence might happen to the Pub-
lique, that the new buildings and
diuiding of Tenements haue
dayly more and more increased,
and such numbers of poore dis-
olute and lewd persons are ther-
in harboured, that in many pa-
rishes within the limits and pre-
cincts aforesaid, there are farre
more households and families
that

*and against the
Proclamation having been
erected*

*the new buildings &
and tenements have
increased*

*the number of
households*

Starre Chamber.

that live by begging, and other
vnlawfull wayes, and by reliefe
and almes of the parish, then
are in the same parish to live by
their own means and vocation;
So as the burthen is growen so
heavy to many of the said pa-
rishes, that the wealthy are not
able to relieue the poore in time
of heath, much lesse in time of
sicknesse or infection, or hath ap-
peared in the late visitation of
the plague, wherein such multi-
tudes of those poore & miserable
households haue been infected,
and their necessities growne to
that extremity, that the officers of
the parish haue not been able to

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A Decree of

keepe them within their houses,
but the sicke and infected haue
gone among the whole, and
great swarmes of indigent and
poore people, and many of them
infected with the sicknesse, haue,
maugre all authority and com-
mand of the officers, flocked in
troups in the principall streets of
the city and suburbs of London,
whereby the Infection of the
plague hath been much the more
disperfed, not onely in the said ci-
tie and places adiacent, but into
many other parts of the king-
dome: Besides it is apparantly
found out, that those multitudes
of new buildings and diuided

Tene-

where it is founde out
those new buildings

Starre Chamber.

Tenements, doe draw into the
said cite, and parts adioyning, *do draw into*
from all parts of the kingdome,
great numbers (idle, loose and *great numbers of*
dissolute persons) who are har- *loose idle & p*
boured in those obscure and *dissolute persons*
meane houses, and having no
lawfull trade or vocation, doe
begge, and also commit Pilferies,
Cofnages, and infinite disor-
ders to enable them to pay their
Landlords rents: And many of
the Owners and Landlords of
such Tenements, of purpose for
raising of excessive rents let
them selves out of their houses
and Tenements, doe let and par-
cell them out to such idle, loose,
and

A Decree of

and ill disposed persons, though they know them to bee of that condition, in regard they will give greater rents then a poore labouring man is able to doe, and vse all shifts and unlawfull meanes to pay it. All which enormities and many more, having, Nippon Survey lately taken, more evidently appeared then in former time.

This Court: for reformation thereof, doth now again Order and decree, that the said severall decrees made in the fourtieth yeere of the said late Queene Elizabeth and the fiftieth yeere of the said late King

JAMES,

*This court for reformation
hereof doth againe order*

40. Eli

7. Jac;

bris

80

Starre Chamber.

H A M B S, with such additions and alterations as hereafter ensue, be severally and strictly executed. And forasmuch as it appeareth not onely by the said Decrees, but by the generall resolution of all the Reuerend Iudges of the Realme (whom His Maiestie out of His great care of the Publique, hath lately commanded to assemble) that the erecting of new buildings within the limits before mentioned, and the diuiding of greater houses into pety tenements and habitations, and pestering and filling the same with Inmates, or with Inhabitants of such euill
con

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A Decree of 2

condition as aforesaid, is a most
unsufferable annoyance against
the Publique, and consequent-
ly is against the Common law
of the Realme; And that not on-
ly the said evil conditioned In-
habitants, but such by whom, or
by whose meanes they are pla-
ced there, or who receive the
rents of such Inhabitants, are
guiltie of a Common Nui-
sance; and also that such Land-
lords or Owners of such houses
or tenements, which have or do
receive the rents of such poore
Inhabitants, may by law be tax-
ed towards the reliefe of the
poore of the said Parish, though
they

guilty of a common
nuisance

Starre-Chamber.

they dwell out of the parish.
This Court holdeth it meet, that
since the offenders haue not ta-
ken warning by two such so-
lemne Decrees made in this
Court, they should now be pro-
ceeded against with more rigor
and feuerity, and not be suffer-
ed any longer to make vnrea-
sonable gain and profit to them-
selues by so great a wrong and
generall grieuance. And there-
fore this Court doth order and
decree, as well in execution of the
said former Decrees, and pursu-
ance of the said resolution of the
Iudges, that where any houses
formerly built within the limits

D

afore-

A Decree of

aforesaid haue been diuided in-
to seuerall habitations or dwel-
lings, within the space of seuen
yeares now last past, contrary to
any former Proclamation or
Decree in that behalfe, the same
within the space of one yeare
next ensuing shall be restored in-
to their former estate, so as there
shall be no more habitations or
dwellings then were before the
said diuisions. And that all and
euery person and persons estated
or interessed in the same, either
of inheritance or of any lesser
estate, shall before the Feast of
the *Ascension* of our Lord now
next ensuing, vpon order or
com-

in & space of 7 years

2/
Starre-Chamber.

command of the Lord Maior,
or some Iustice of peace of the
Citie of London, or of the Al-
derman of the Ward, or his De-
putie, (if the said Tenements be
within the said City or the liber-
ties thereof) or of some Iustice
of peace neere to the place (if the
said houses be out of the liberties
of the Citie) enter into bond of
a competent penalty, to obserue
and performe this order in that
behalfe; the said Bond to be ta-
ken in the names of some honest
and sufficient persons of the pa-
rish where such Tenements are,
to the vse of the said parish.

And it is further ordered and *It is further orde*

D 2

decreed

A Decree of

decreed, that where any houses,
within the limits aforesaid, haue
been erected or built within the
said space of seven yeares, or be-
ing formerly erected or built,
haue within the said space of se-
uen yeares beene diuided, and
are employed for the habitation
of indigent and poore people,
chargeable to the Parish wherein
the said houses are, that in every
such Case, all and every person
and persons estated, or interes-
sed in the said houses or Tene-
ments of estate of inheritance,
or any lesser estate, and which
haue receiued the rents, issues,
and profits thereof, of, and from
such

where any houses
within the limits
aforesaid

erected or built
within the space of
seven yeares

employed for habitation
of poor people

chargeable to the parish

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such poore Inhabitants, shall by vertue of this Order and Decree, be bound each of them respectively for their time, to restore and repay to the Ouerseers of the poore of the Parish, wherein the said houses be, all such summes of money as haue beene disbursed by the Parish, for the reliefe of the Inhabitants in the said houses in sicknesse or health, or for any other charge, wherewith such Parishes haue been burthened, since the feast of *Pentecost* last past, by reason of such Inhabitants; And shall also before the feast of the *Ascension* of our Lord now next en-

D 3

suing,

A Decree of

suing, vpon order or command
 of the Lord Maior or some Iu-
 stice of Peace of the Citie, or the
 Alderman of the VVard, or his
 Deputie (if the Tenements bee
 within the Citie, or Liberties
 thereof) or of some Iustice of
 Peace neere the place (if the said
 houses bee out of the Liberties
 of the City) enter into bond of a
 competent penaltie, to be taken
 in the names of some honest
 and sufficient men of the parish,
 where such Tenements bee, to
 the vse of the said parish; to saue
and keepe harmelesse the pari-
shes wherein the said houses be,
 for, & during such their seuerall
 estates

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estates or interests, respectiue-
ly, from all charges and expences,
any way touching or concern-
ing the maintaining, keeping,
or releeuing of the Inhabitants,
which by, or vnder them, or any
of them haue beene, or shall be
placed in the said houses, habi-
tations, or dwellings.

And that where any Inmates
within the said space of seuen
yeares last past haue beene pla-
ced in any houses or tenements,
within the limits aforesaid, and
are there continued, the same
Inmates within the space of one
yeare next ensuing, shall be re-
mooued by the persons interes-
sed

-26-

A Decree of

*having power by
reason of their estates*
fed and estated in the said houses
or Tenements, having power by
reason of their estates, to re-
mooue them so, as by the end of
one yeare now next ensuing,
there shall be no more families
then one abiding in any of the
said houses.

And that all and every such
person and persons, as are, or
shall be estated, or interessed in
the said houses, as aforesaid, and
to whom the rents, issues, or pro-
fits of the said houses, are, or shall
be payable, or answerable, shall
vpon order or command of the
Lord Maior, or some Iustice of
Peace of the Citie, or the Alder-
men

Starre-Chamber.

man of the ward, or his Deputie (if the said Tenements bee within the Citie of London, or Liberties thereof) or of some Iustice of Peace neere the place (if the said houses be out of the Liberties) enter into bond of a competent penaltie (with sufficient sureties, if it shall be required) to performe this part of this present Order and Decree; such bond to bee taken in the name of some honest person or persons for the vse of the parish.

And it is further ordered and decreed, that all such persons, as are, or shall be estated, or interessed in any houses diuided,

E

ded,

A Decree of

ded aboue seuen yeares last
past, Contrary to any Procla-
mation or Decree of this Ho-
nourable Court in that behalfe,
of an estate of inheritance, or
any lesser estate, which haue
receiued, or hereafter shall re-
ceiue the rents, or profits there-
of from the inhabitants, shall
at their perill take a course, if
they haue power by reason of
their estates so to doe, that the
same houses bee restored to their
former condition and number of
houses, and no more then were
before the diuiding therof, with-
in the space of three yeares now
next ensuing; And also that all
such

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such houses which haue beene
either built or diuided, contrary
to any such Proclamation or
Decree as aforesaid, within the
limits aforesaid, before, or aboue
seuen yeares last past, and are
employed for the habitation of in-
digent and poore people, who are
chargeable to the parish, where
those houses are; That in euery
such Case all, and euery person
and persons estated or interessed
in the said houses or tenements
of estate of Inheritance, or any
lesser estate, and hauing recei-
ued the rents, issues and pro-
fits thereof, of, and from the in-
habitants, shall by vertue of

*hauing receyued
y^e rents
fro^m y^e inhabitants*

150
A Decree of

this Order and Decree, euery
one for their seuerall time, bee
bound to restore and repay to
the ouerseers of the poore of the
parish wherein the said houses
be, all such summes of money
as haue been disbursed by the
parish, for the reliefe of the In-
habitants of the said houses in
sicknesse or health, or for any
other charge wherewith such
parishes haue been burthened,
since the Feast of *Pentecost* last
past, by reason of such Inhabi-
tants, and shall also before the
said Feast of the *Ascension* of
our Lord God next ensuing,
vpon order or command of the
Lord

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Lord Maior, or some Iustice
of peace of the said Citie, or the
Alderman of the Ward, or
his Deputie (if the said Tene-
ments be within the Citie of
London, or liberties thereof) or
of some Iustice of peace neer the
place (if the said houses be out of
the liberties) enter into bond of
a competent penaltie, with suffi-
cient sureties, if it shall be re-
quired, to saue and keepe harme-
lesse the parish from all charges
and expences, any way touch-
ing or concerning the maintain-
ing, keeping, or relieuing the
Inhabitants, which by, or vnder
them, or any of them haue been

E 3

or

A Decree of

or shal be placed in the said houses, habitations or dwellings; The said Bond to bee taken in the name of some honest person or persons for the vse of the parish.

And it is further Ordered, and Decreed, that besides all the paiments, charges and burthens aforesaid, to bee paide, done or performed by the said Land- lords or Owners, in ease of the Parish, for, or in respect of their owne Tenants, They, and eue- ry of them, shall contribute and giue such like ratable and rea- sonable allowance with the said Parishioners, where such build-
ings

Starre-Chamber.

ings or diuisions are, towards the finding and maintaining of the rest of the poore of the said parish, as should bee apportioned, taxed, assessed, or allotted for him, or them to pay, if he, or they were dwelling in the said parish, and were not charged towards the reliefe or maintenance of his, or their owne vnder tenants, as is aforesaid.

And this Court doth further Order and Decree, that if any person or persons shall hereafter new build, or diuide any Tenements within the limits aforesaid, contrary to this Decree, or the said former Decrees, made in this

*if any person
shall hereafter
new build in*

A Decree of

this Court, or the seuerall Proclamations heretofore published in that behalfe, or shall place any such poore, or indigent people in any such Tenements heretofore built or diuided, or hereafter to be built or diuided, or receiue any Inmates into the same, that then the person, or persons so offending shall bee by order or command of the Lord Maior, or some Iustice of peace of the said Citie of London, or the Alderman of the VVard, or his Deputy, (if the Tenements shall happen to be within the said Citie, or the liberties thereof) or of some Iustice of peace neere the

the

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the place (if the Tenements shall bee without the liberties) enter into bond of a competent penaltie, with sureties to some honest person or persons, to the vse of the parish in which the Tenements shall be, within one moneth next after the date of such Bond, to pull downe such new erected Tenements, or to reforme or restore such diuided Tenements to their former condition, or to remoue such indigent people and Inmates placed therein, as the case shall happen to bee. And that all and eue-
ry person and persons, that shall hereafter receiue any Rents, Issues,
F fues,

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A Decree of

such, or profits, of or from any
such poore or indigent people
inhabiting in any such Tene-
ment heretofore built or diui-
ded, or hereafter to bee built or
diuided, shall beare, and pay all
charges and expences which
the Parish shall sustaine or bee
put to, for, or by reason of any
such poore and indigent people
inhabiting within the Parish,
and shall likewise bee rated and
assessed to pay, and are hereby
also ordered and decreed to pay
their ratable share and propor-
tion, with the Inhabitants of
the parish, for and towards
the reliefe of the poore of such
parish

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parish, as if the person or persons receiuing rents or profits from such poore and indigent Inhabitants were dwelling within the parish.

And it is further ordered, that if any person or persons, shall refuse or make default to satisfie or pay any the payments or charges aforesaid, or to performe any part of this Order, That then proces of Attachment out of this Court shall be awarded against him or them, with such further proces of contempt, and imprisonment, as are vsuall against the breakers or contemners of the Decrees or Orders of

A Decree, &c.

this Court, and before his enlargement shall giue securitie by bond as aforesaid, and satisfie and pay all such summes of money, as hee or they should or ought to pay, with double costs to the prosecutor or prosecutors, for all the charges they shall sustaine in prosecution of the said contempts.





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Excellent MAIESTIE:
and by the Assignes of
JOHN BILL.

M. D C. XXXVI.



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THE
OCTOBER
1901
EXCELLENCE
OF THE
FARM

EXCELLENCE